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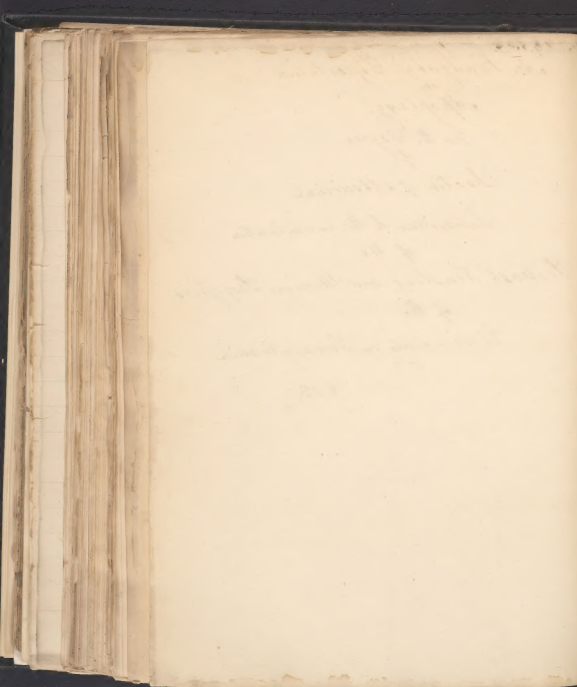
An Inaugural Dissertation
on
Apoplexy.
For the Degree
of
Doctor of Medicine.

#8

Submitted to the examination
of the
Provest, Trustees, and Medical Professors,
of the
University of Pennsylvania.

1813.

R. Wistar
no 62



Apoplexy.

The following history of Apoplexy, I have drawn up from the Lectures of the Professor of the Institutes. All are of the correctness and utility of his observations on this disease (and on diseases in general) I have taken this history from him, with the view of impressing the subject firmly on my mind, and at the same time to comply with the rules of this University.

Did the laws of the University compel the Candidate to present a Dissertation wholly original, I should indeed be at a loss for a subject, since the present Professors have laboured so much, with a view to the perfection of Medicine.

I am proud to acknowledge the debt I owe to the Professor of the Institutes. That Model of Wisdom, Solomon, it is said, gave the following piece of advice, "Walk in the paths,

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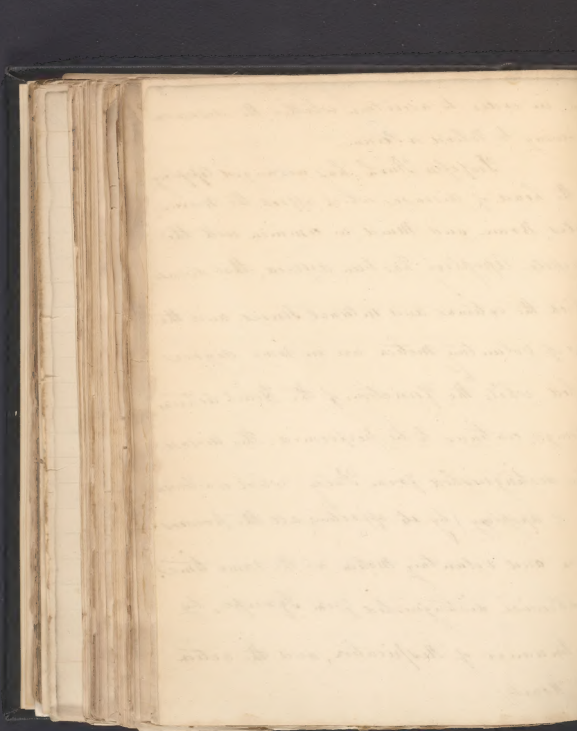
of wise Men, sensible of the beneficial tendency of this
silence, I feel as if the good Solomon accompanied
me, and in addition to the foregoing; observed, "Stay not
thou from the paths of Truth."

Apoplexy, has been divided by Cullen
into the Languineous, and the Scurous. The former species
Cullen supposed, depended upon an extravasation of
Blood, the latter, upon an effusion of Serum in the
brain. There can be no necessity for this distinction,
for Apoplexy will be Apoplexy, from whatever cause
induced. It would be impossible for the Physician to
know, and if he did know, of no importance, whether
whether the disease arose in consequence of Blood or Serum.
In either case the remedies would be the same, and
therefore the distinction must be entirely useless.
Like many of the Nosological diseases, (if this distinction
was admitted) we would be obliged to await
the death of the Patient, and then dissect his

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Brain, in order to ascertain whether the disease was owing to Blood or Serum.

Professor Rush has arranged Apoplexy under the head of, diseases which affect the Nerves, Muscles, Brain, and Mind, in common with the Blood vessels. Apoplexy has been defined, that disease, in which the external and internal senses, and the powers of voluntary Motion, are in some degree abolished, while the Functions of the Heart, Arteries and Lungs, continue to be performed. This disease may be distinguished from Palsy (which is a lower grade of Apoplexy) by its affecting all the powers of Sense and voluntary Motion, at the same time. It is likewise distinguished from Syncope, by the continuance of Respiration, and the action of the Heart.



The Sleep of Apoplexy, is known from common sleep, by its coming on more suddenly, being more profound, and more generally attended with shivering. There is usually a relaxation of the Sphincters of the Anus, and Bladder, whilst the peristaltic motion of the Bladder continues.

The Patient is sometimes attacked suddenly, but most frequently, the Fit is preceded by some of the following symptoms, *Viz.* Elevated excitement, Shivering, in Persons, unaccustomed to it. Drowsiness, Giddiness. Numbness in one or both arms, or sides. Dull and false vision, Cloudiness over the eyes. Absence of Piles or Gout, in Persons affected with them. The face becoming suddenly flushed, the blood is supposed over the whole face, of a dark red colour, This last symptom, constitutes the disease to which Doct. Rush has given the name

of Facial expression.

These symptoms continuing for a space
or while time the Patient becomes suddenly deprived
of the power of voluntary Motion and of the use of his
Senses. He at once falls down the breathing is noisy
and stertorous, the countenance generally flushed
though sometimes pale, the pupils of the eye is dilated
forming at the mouth rivulet the teeth loose. The
disease very frequently terminates in Paralysis
or the Patient is seized with vomiting and after
a profuse perspiration recovers the Power of his
Mind &c. The pulse during the continuance of
the Fit is either Spasmodic, debilitated, intermitting
or Slow. It has been observed to slow as to beat
but 7 or 8 times in a minute. This slowness
in the Pulse is more dangerous than quickness.

Apoplexy sometimes occurs without preceding
any premonitory symptoms, and when it does it is
generally preceded by a sense of a swelling
of the head in the brain.

The Remote Causes of Apoplexy
are, excessive exercise of the Understanding, Intemperance
in eating and drinking, Violation on what is usually
termed, a Stroke of the Sun Apoplexy from the hot
Mercurial cause is uncommon in Britain but is
a uniform disease, at least it does not occur
in the natives of such countries.

The Remote causes of Apoplexy
are very numerous, among which are the following,
Violent exercise of the whole body, Excess of eating,
The vitiated air of crowded Houses & Churches, Heated
Clothes about the neck, in the Room
of sleep. In location, Strokes of Political

German language. James & Mercey, Post 8. in 1829
describes the cause to illustrate this, Doctor Hall has
related a case of a German who in this city was
violently irritated by some boys blowing the
Queen of Tobacco through the nose-hole of his wife.
The Colic followed then without catching any air.
They began to torture him, he became highly
enraged, and fell dead in an apoplexy.

Cold feet. Doct. Rush mentions two cases of the
disease from cold feet. Overloading the stomach
at supper. Electricity. Sleeping on a cold floor.
Smoking tobacco. Doct. Rush mentions two cases
of Angina from this cause. It is induced by
severe more especially of a Maligant kind.
It is recorded that in the year 1749 Angina

were Epidemic in Paris. Congestion of Blood & Water
in the Brain, when the disease arises from external cold
fluids in the Brain the second fit is generally said
to prove fatal.

The Remedy for the Terrible state of the
disease when the patient is unconscious, sitting up, dull and
pale vision swelling of the face and neck &c.
Bleeding the Patient should lose ten or sixteen ounces
of blood, and take some purging medicine with
a view to prevent the coming fit. Doct Ferrius
attributes to the efficacy of this remedy. He often bleed
himself whilst in the ravages, and there
by arrested the spreading fit. Aker and a Surgeon
when these symptoms arise from exercise, blood letting
would be proper. At this time always there is a
tendency to return the Patient should avoid as much
as possible the cold and continue exercise.

When the disease has formed, and we are
called to the patient, the apartment should be
devoid of all unnecessary attendants. The visit
is very injurious to persons labouring under
Apoplexy. Ligatures, bandages, and clothes, boots or
shoes should be removed from the body. The head
of the patient is to be raised, and care should
be taken that no spurious attendants apply any
irritative substance to the nose, or make use of
friction to any part of the body. Blood should
then be immediately taken from one or both
temples or from the temporal artery, if the patient
be not debilitated. When a shudder arises from con-
vulsion bloodletting should be prompt and copious.
If of congestion has not already taken place
in the vessels of the head, bleeding will break it.

if the "nose" be now depressed a little
long, the Riverian method of bleeding. Now it is im-
posed. Foster & suppose that Leeches applied
up the nose would prove beneficial. This would
no doubt be a great service as it accords so well
with the Riverian method.

In this state of improper posture
bleeding would be highly injurious; we should
therefore take away blood gradually, & even much
be opened and a few ounces of blood taken, he it
up - again until the pulse rises, when it does open
the vein again take another small quantity, and by
this way of proceeding, in time in the system
time to arise, and when it has pointed long
such as a quill has been thrust up the nostril
in order to rupture a vessel and produce hemorrh-
age. This has often done great service.

When humors are as they become in them
are viscidous substance in the stomach something
should be excited, and will also be useful by
drawing such substances from the body
by exciting the throat with a blister. The excellent
should however in all instances precede the use
of it, viz. the bowels should be opened by the use
of large doses of Purgative Medicines. After which
be given and a catheter introduced into the
bladder to remove the urine of the Patient is
essential to void it.

If then the disease is attended with
Fistula, the Head may be shaved, and cold
water as I mentioned See applied to it. If all
these remedies be of no service the must
have recourse to Blesters, applied to the upper
and lower extremities, and to the neck.

In this low state of the disease, Mustard
in the form of Cataplasm should be applied to the
Joints of the Feet Electricity, friction to the external
limbs and acute sounds, and lastly, the application
of the actual cautery to the neck. If these different
remedies should fail to relieve the Patient, he
will at least console himself with the reflection
that no exertion on our part has been wanting.

The Unfavourable signs of this
disease are when it attacks persons under
thirty years of age. Another Unfavourable mark
one case which he cured under this age. It is
usually fatal when it occurs in children. When
the Patient makes an effort to swallow his mouth
with his hand. When a fever attends late in the
disease. When the Pulse is intermittent, and when the

of face is pale. It is almost always fatal when
it comes on without any of the foregoing signs.

The remarkable symptoms of
Apoplexy, are Stupor, vomiting, & quick pulse
increased perspiration, Palsy on one side &c. &c.
A greater number of Persons recover from Apoplexy
being driven by intemperance, than from any other cause.

The Physicians are avoiding
indigestible Food of all kind, such as Minced
Beef &c. &c. is of opinion that the great number
of Apoplexies which occur about Vintners, may
be attributed to the general use of Minced
Beef about that Period. Intemperance in eating and
drinking. Changes in the Diet should be avoided.
More acutely stimulating drinks to Persons, who
have been in the habit of drinking sedentive liquors.

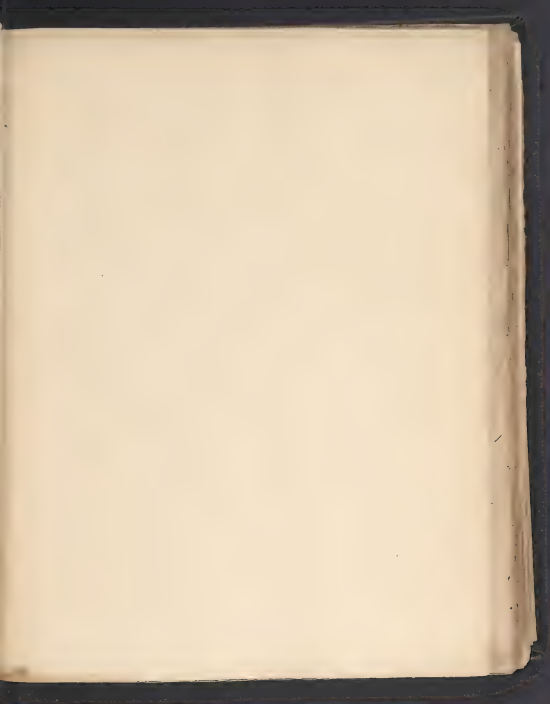
...broaden him with water should be pressed to other
drinks. For the purpose of removing wind
garlic has been used with advantage. Doct Ford
in his lecture on the subject mentions the case of
a person who was troubled with giddiness. Having
learned a certain Person directed him to take
two or three cloves of garlic a day. He made
made use of this remedy and was perfectly
cured. Exercise, this should be gentle and
constant, either walking or riding, the latter
mode is preferable. Fatigue from either mode
is to be carefully avoided. The patient should
not sleep with his head low or on his back or
too much on one side, for this purpose the patient
should lie on a hard bed, a Mattress is very good
as it will induce him to be restless.

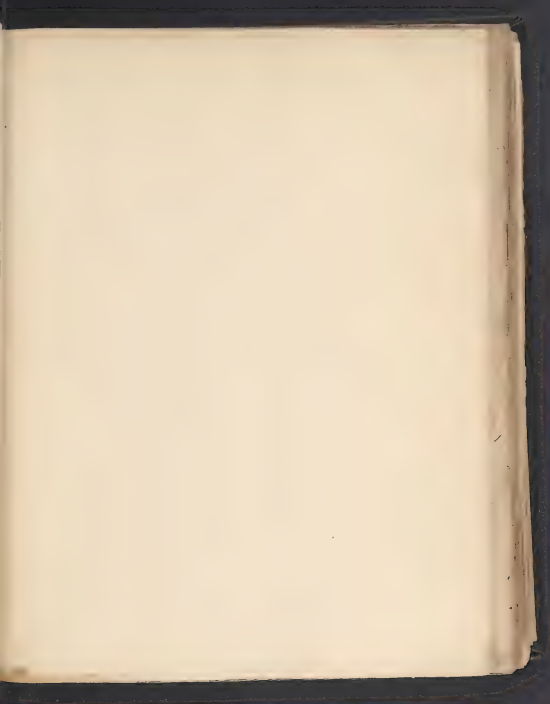


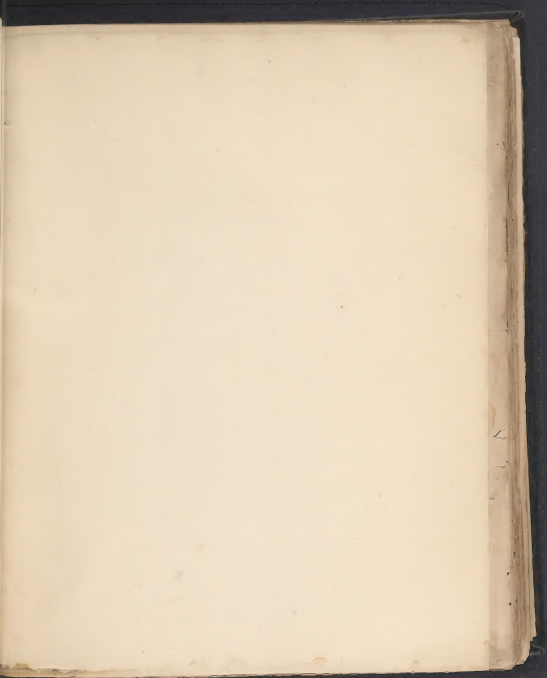
If the supposition of a discharge from
an old sore, has taken place, Gases may very
properly be employed likewise scabions in the back
of the neck. In riding, covered spectacles and
char ticulons, guarding the face against cold; for
this purpose thick stockings should be worn.
Fastens of Benzoin & Pitch, or Indian Resin, should
be particularly recommended, a plaster of Gum Arabic
Wax, worn between the foot and the stocking.
Pastures must be guarded against any mild
Venereal Purgs, may frequently be exhibited.

Having brought the subject of Syphilis to a
conclusion it only remains for me to tender my warmest
thanks to the Editors in this manner, and also to state at
length to me. It is my sincere wish that you may live
to instruct thousands who shall feel as grateful to
them as the author of this paper.

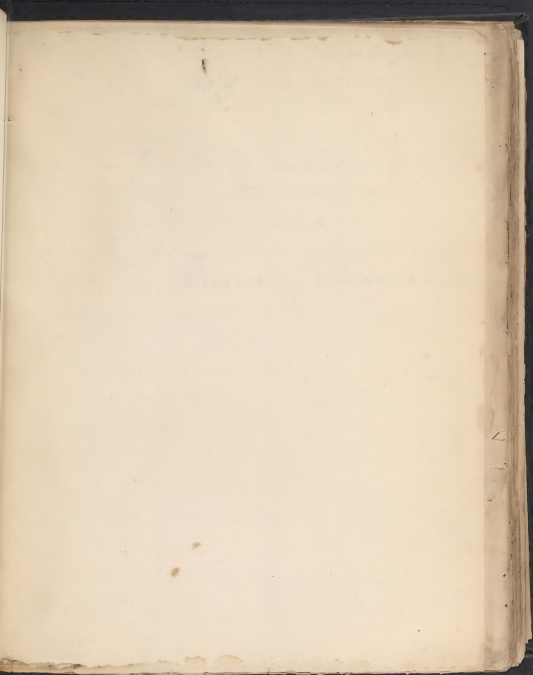












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